DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) In 1931 Rs. 6,200.

(*b*) In 1943. Rs. 20,000.

(*c*) The estimate was revised twice.

(*d*) Due to high cost and international situation.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: The answer given is 'due to high cost and international situation.' The first estimate was prepared in 1931. May I know from the Chief Engineer what international situation existed in 1931.

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I could not tell you; it is a very old story. It was first of all Rs. 6,200, as it because Rs. 13000 it was actually submitted to Government. It was revised for Rs. 20,000 and it was later again revised for Rs. 26,360. Tenders were called for recently and the contractor wants Rs. 38,000.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: The answer given is 'the bridge was not undertaken due to international situation.' What was the situation existing then?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I could not tell you.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I have, within recent months received such estimates that I have become suspicious of all estimates and therefore I decided that I would not accept any estimates prepared during the last three or four years, unless tehy are scrutinised by the present Chief Engineer. Therefore the whole question will have to be re-examined.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: But why is it given 'due to International.....

PRESIDENT: Undoubtedly there has been this regrettable delay from 1931 to 1945. I admit there were no international situations then excepting a few peace conferences.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: The war began only in 1939, so from 1931 to 1939 there was a great interval of several years...

PRESIDENT Yes, yes.

Construction of a bridge over Chengalom ferry.

346. ***MR. K. VARGHESE ITHAC:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there was a bridge at any time during the last 20 years in Chengalom thodu.;

(*b*) how long is it since the Government have begun to maintain a ferry there; and

(*c*) whether they are aware that Chengalom ferry is the shortest link to Olassa, Parippu and Aymanom?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) Yes; till 1928.

(*b*) About 17 years.

(*c*) Yes.

MR. P. K. IDICULA: ഈ പാലം പണി തുടങ്ങാൻ ഇനിയും എത്രകൊല്ലം പണിവരുമെന്ന പറയാമോ ?

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DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Unless the rates come down it is not possible. At the rates which are being asked for now it is impossible to do the work. We will try to do it departmentally.

Kuttapuzha thodu.

347. *MR. K. G. KESAVAN NAIR: Will the Government be pleased to state whether any tender has been given for the remaining work to be completed in connection with the Kuttapuzha thodu?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Yes.

Preservation of drainage thodus in South Travancore.

348. *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) what steps have been taken by them for proper preservation of drainage thodus in South Travancore;

(*b*) whether any scheme has been formulated for the above purpose; and

(*c*) if any scheme has been formulated, is it being carried out?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) The drainage kals and thodus for which there are maintenance grants are being maintained.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*b*)

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I ask whether the Chief Engineer considers it necessary to formulate a scheme? I am referring to the answer to part (b)

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I want a little more acquaintance with the area. Generally the lie of the land here is so undulating that drainage is more or less normal. There may be cases where there is waterlogging. I want to find out which area is waterlogging.

Pulikuzhi, Ennakkachira and Meluchira tanks.

349. *MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRY (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether any action has been taken regarding the maintenance of Pulikuzhi, Ennakkachira and Meluchira tanks in Sachivottamapuram?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: No action has been taken as the tanks are minor irrigation tanks.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRY: May I know from the honourable member whether he will kindly issue an order to the effect that the minor irrigation tanks also will be taken up?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Certainly Sir, I will take up as many of these tanks as possible.

Repairs of minor and major irrigation tanks.

350 *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether minor and major irrigation tanks repaired at the expense of the Government are kept in proper repair: and

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